

Meeting Report

CALIFORNIA INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM TASK FORCE PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday and Friday, May 29-30, 2003

Note: This is a draft report, subject to review by The Task Force at its next meeting.

This two-day meeting started and ended in formal session, presided over by the Chairperson. The balance of the time was spent in an informal workshop, facilitated by a professional workshop leader, and included a tour of two representative sites. All parts of the meeting were open to and attended by members of the public.

Task Force Members and Designees present for all or part of the two-days: Loren Bommelyn, Ruth Coleman, Gen Denton, John Gomez Jr., Cindy La Marr, Bill Mungary, Larry Myers, Pilar Onate, Michael Sweeney.

DPR staff present for all or part of the two-days: Maria Baranowski, Billie Blue-Elliston, Leo Carpenter, Jr., Paulette Hennum, Pauline Grenbeaux, Tara Lynch, Warren Westrup, Dave Keck.

Workshop Facilitator: Steve Christiano

FORMAL SESSION

Thursday, May 29th, 8:00 am TO 9:00 am
Resources Building – Room 1412, 1416 9th Street, Sacramento

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Executive Secretary Coleman shortly after 8:00 am. Bommelyn opened with a traditional blessing. The agenda for the two-day meeting was reviewed. The Task Force (TF) reviewed a synopsis of the previous meeting (March 17). It was agreed that such reports could go on the project web-site in the future without waiting for approval by the entire TF – provided that the report was marked as a draft and the Chairperson approved it. Grenbeaux shared information about travel claims and expenses, calendars and meeting dates, and contract staff arrangements.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Bommelyn nominated Cindy La Marr to be Chairperson of the Task Force, Gomez seconded, and the members confirmed the selection unanimously.

BUDGET UPDATE

La Marr called upon Coleman to give a report on the project financing and the State's 2003/04 Budget. Coleman explained that the second \$5 million from Proposition 40 bond funds is not being allocated directly to projects in the 2003/04 Budget. The balance of the funds available is being set up in a competitive grants program to which this project can and will apply.

RECESS

La Marr recessed the meeting, so that it could reconvene at the Granite Bay Activity Center for its visioning workshop.

WORKSHOP

Thursday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Granite Bay Activity Center / Folsom Lake State Recreation Area

The workshop was led by professional facilitator Steve Christiano. After a review of previous study documents, TF members were asked to provide written comments about the California Indian Museum Study (1991) to a large master outline. Small group discussions were held about what various stakeholders would be saying about the cultural center ten years after opening, assuming it is successful. They also discussed what the place should look and feel like, and where it should be located geographically to be relevant to Indians and the general public.

A presentation was made by Warren Westrup, Chief of DPR's Acquisition Division, and Dave Keck, a Manager for park planning, about the acquisition and planning process within DPR.

Friday, 8:00 am to 11:00 pm

Tour started at One Capitol Mall -- 4th floor, Sacramento

The TF visited two sites which were representational of the kinds of sites that are or could be available for the project: The Triangle Property in West Sacramento - an urban site, and the Lake Natoma site -- a suburban site with more natural features. Prior to driving to the Triangle Property, its owners and the Mayor of West Sacramento spoke about how an Indian Museum would fit into their vision for the West Sacramento waterfront. At the Lake Natoma site, staff from Folsom

Lake State Recreation Area spoke about the general plan for that park and possibilities for accommodating the needs of an Indian cultural center there.

Friday 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Granite Bay Activity Center, Folsom Lake State Recreation Area

The TF discussed advantages and disadvantages of different kinds of sites and their locations within the state. The group reviewed earlier comments made on the outline of the 1991 Study.

Christiano will compile comments recorded during the workshop and distribute them to the TF members within two weeks time. He will report back with his summary of the workshop at the next meeting. Grenbeaux will summarize the TF response to the 1991 Study.

FORMAL SESSION

Friday, May 30th, 2:00 pm to 4:50 pm

Granite Bay Activity Center, Folsom Lake State Recreation Area

RECONVENE MEETING

Chairperson La Marr reconvened the meeting at about 2:10pm. TF members introduced themselves for benefit of the public attending.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was limited to 5 minutes each.

- Marilyn Jasper, Board Member for Save Clover Valley, asked the Task Force to consider a site in the City of Rocklin that is rich with Indian cultural sites and wildlife.
- Frank La Pena of Sacramento encouraged the TF to locate the Cultural Center in central California. He also hoped that there would be an opportunity for contemporary art and for outreach programs similar to National Museum of the American Indian.
- Betsy Strand, a volunteer at historic Folsom Powerhouse and member of CALPA, spoke on behalf of the Lake Natoma site. She also spoke about CALPA which is a league of associations that support State Parks.
- Allyson Braverman, a docent for the State Indian Museum, endorsed the Lake Natoma site and said the volunteers at SIM are excited about the potential for a larger museum in the area.

- James Overman, a volunteer for the California Military Museum, asked that veterans be given attention at the new Cultural Center and suggested a prominent position for an eagle staff.
- Jeanine English, representing the owners of the Triangle Property, spoke of the advantages of the West Sacramento site, the owners willingness to assist the project with organizing its capital campaign, and possible donation of 4 acres to the project.
- Jim Roberts, an environmental planner, was not present but left his written comments for the Task Force.

CONFIRMATION OF VISION and SITE SELECTION

The TF felt it was premature to confirm or reject the 1991 Feasibility Study, since this meeting was the first occasion for the members to discuss it together. There appeared to be consensus on many points during the workshop, which the facilitator and staff will summarize for further discussion at the next TF meeting.

The group briefly discussed the general characteristics that were identified during the Workshop as desirable for the site (e.g. natural features.) It also acknowledged a need to consider population centers, partnerships, and economic feasibility. The members requested background on how other State museums are operated and funded, and the role of non-profits.

The TF members were concerned that they get input from tribes before making firm decisions about important matters, particularly the location of the center. They authorized the Chairperson to send a letter out to tribal chairpersons inviting their ideas.

There was some discussion of the desirability of meeting with the University of California President and the State Librarian to lay groundwork for possible future partnerships.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting of the TF will be in about two months in Sacramento. The focus of the meeting will be on completing a vision statement, and an introduction to non-profit foundations and how they contribute to museum operations and funding. There will also be a discussion about how to determine the best name for the cultural center.

The need to raise funds to pay for travel expenses of subsequent meetings was discussed. The Chairperson and staff will pursue this very soon.

The TF decided (motion made by Gomez, consented to by group) that the Chairperson would serve a three-year term. The TF declined to elect a vice-chairperson.

There was a discussion of the need for TF members to serve on a sub-committee as a contact person for DPR staff on specific topics.

- Gomez and La Marr will assist in establishing requirements for master planners and designers, and will participate in review and selection.
- Bommelyn and Denton will be assist in determining how traditional practices can be accomodated and interpreted at the cultural center. Traditional leaders from throughout the state will be consulted about this.
- Mungary and Myers will be available to discuss site requirements and requests for proposals for potential development partners.
- Simmons will provide expertise on programming, and opportunities for grants and partnerships with other successful programs such as California Council for the Humanities.

La Marr asked all the TF members to consider their interests and the needs of the project, and be prepared to take on an assignment later.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned about 4:50.